

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 051374

O R 132245Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3533

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N N I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 2046

EXDIS

CARACAS ALSO FOR LEGATT

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS ASEC GY TD BB

SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BURHHAM OCT 13

REF: GEORGETOWN 2042, B CARACAS 12108, C GEORGETOWN 2010,  
D GEORGETOWN 2045

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM SUMMONED ME TO  
HIS HOME TODAY (OCT 13). DURING A STRANGE ONE  
HOUR AND 15 MINUTE TALK, HE EXPRESSED SUSPICION OVER  
JOE LEO'S LINKS WITH THE SUSPECTS IN THE CUBANA AIRLINER CRASH  
AND OVER POSSIBLE U.S. PRESSURES ON  
THE TRINIDADIAN AND BARBADIAN GOVERNMENTS TO GIVE  
UP ANY SERIOUS INVESTIGATION OF THE CRASH. I AGAIN FIRMLY  
DENIED,  
ANY U.S. INVOLVEMENT WITH THE DISASTER  
AS WELL AS THE INSINUATION THAT THE U.S. WAS TRYING  
TO FORCE A COVER-UP. I BELIEVE BURNHAM WAS TRYING TO  
TEST MY REACTIONS. HIS SUSPICIONS  
SEEMED TO RECEDE AS WE TALKED (AS THEY  
DID LAST WEEK - REF C). AFTER THE FIRST TEN  
MINUTES, HE TALKED MUSINGLY ABOUT THE DEATHS  
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OF THE GUYANESE, THE IMPORTANCE OF

JISTICE, THE STRANGE BEHAVIOR OF THE BARBADIAN AND TRINIADAIAN OFFICIALS AND OF WHAT HE WOULD SAY IN HIS SPEECH NEXT SUNDAY (REF D). HE WAS FRIENDLY, DID NOT APPEAR EXCITED, BUT DID APPEAR TIRED AND EMOTIONALLY STRAINED END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER BURHHAM CALLED ME LAST NIGHT (OCT 12) FOLLOWING THE CABINET MEETING TO ASK ME WHETHER I WAS AWARE THAT ORLANDO BOSCH WAS IN VENEZUELA. I REPLIED THAT FROM WHAT FONMIN WILLS HAD TOLD ME AND CERTAIN OTHER INDICATIONS, I PRESUMED THAT BOSCH MIGHT BE THERE. JUST BEFORE NOON TODAY, HE CALLED AGAIN AND ASKED IF I WOULD GO OVER TO HIS GEORGETOWN HOME FOR A TALK. UPON MY ARRIVAL, BURNHAM WELCOMED ME CORDIALLY, BUT BEGAN OUR CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT THE ENTRY IN THE VENEZUELAN SUSPECT LUGO'S DIARY AND THE KNOWN FRIENDSHIP OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR INIARBADOSU AND ERIC SEALY AROUSED SUSPICIONS. THUS, HE SAID OFFICIAL AMERICANS HAVE HAD CONTACT WIH TWO OF FIVE PERSONS UNDER SUSPICION OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE BOMBING OF THE CUBAN PLANE. I POINTED OUT THAT LEO HAD NDER MET LUGO ALTHOUGH HE HAD MET CASUALLY THE OTHER SUSPECT. AS SUGGESTED REF B, I REMINDED HIM THAT LEO WAS WITH THE FBI AND HAD COOPERATED IN PROVIDING WILLS INFORMATION ON THE BOMBING OF GUYANA'S CONSULATE IN PORT OF SPAIN. I TOLD HIM THAT I FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THATY ANYONE WOULD BELIEVE THE U.S. HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH TERRORISM.

2. BURNHAM TOLD ME THAT THE TWO SUSPECTS REPORTEDLY HAD RECEIVED \$40,000 IN CARACAS TO CARRY OUT THEIR WORK. HE HAD BEFORE HIM A CABLE OR PERHAPS A WIRE SERVICE REPORT WHICH HE SAID WAS FGM "EL MUNDO" IN CARACAS INDICATING FIVE PERSONS HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE AND THAT A CUBAN EXILE LAWYER HAD BIW GHT INSTRUCTIONS FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE EXILE ORGANIZATION IN MIAMI THE PREVIOUS WEEK.

3. BURNHAM SAID ONE OF THE SUSPECTS HAD BEEN IN BARBADOS IN JULY AT THE TIME OF THE BWIA BOMBINGS AND THAT BOTH HAD ALSO BEEN IN TRINIDAD AT THE TIME OF THE BOMBING OF THE GUYANESE CONSULATE. I QUESTIONED THIS AND HE

DIALED FONMIN WILLS WHO TOLD BURNHAM THAT ONE OF THE SUSPECTS HAD BEEN IN TRINIDAD AT THE TIME.

4. THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT WAS TALKING OF HAVING MERELY A "JUDICIAL INQUIRY" CONCERNING THE PLANE CRASH, ASSERTED BURNHAM. SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED WHICH HAD HANDED THE INITIAL COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE BARBADIAN AND TRINIDADIAN GOVERNMENTS TOWARD THE INVESTIGATION AND TOWARD GUYANAJO IN BARBADOS THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF GUYANA' CID COULD TALK TO NO ONE HIGHER THAN AN "ASSISTANT DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT" OF THE POLICE. PRIME MINISTER ADAMS INITIALLY HAD PROMISED FULL COOPERATION. SIMILARLY IN TRINIDAD THE HEAD OF THE SPECIAL BRANCH LAST THURSDAY HAD WELCOMED GUYANESE INVESTIGATORS BUT NOW HE WAS SEPARATED FROM THE INVESTIGATION. BURNHAM ASKED, "WHAT IS THIS NEW DIMENSION THAT HAS CAUSED THEIR CHANGE OF ATTITUDES?" HE RETURNED TO THIS POINT SEVERAL TIMES.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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5. HE MUSED SEVERAL TIMES ABOUT HOW ANY POLICE SERVICE TRAINED BY THE BRITISH COULD BE SO LACKADAISICAL. SOME QUOTES FROM HIS WORDS ARE: "THE INVESGIATION IN BARBADOS IS A JOKE AND I INTEND TO SAY SO SUNDAY;" "THE TRINIDADIAN ARE

WHITEWASHING THIS CASE." HE SAID HE SAW CONSPIRACY BETWEEN TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS TO CAUSE THE WHOLE INVESTIGATION TO COME TO NOTHING. LATER HE SAID, "HYPROCRISY AND CONSPIRACY WERE INVOLVED."

6. IT BECAE CLEAR TO ME THAT BURNHAM WAS SUSPICIOUS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD BROUGHT BQRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE TRINIDADIAN AND BARBADIAN GOVERNMENTS. I TOLD HIM I WAS CERTAIN THE UNITED STATES AHD NO REASON TO QUASH AN INVESTIGATION. OUR INTEREST WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY A FULL AND FAIR INVESTIGATION AND CONVICTION OF ANYONE PROVEN GUILTY. I OPINED THAT BARBADOS APPEARED TO BE THE LOGICAL PLACE FOR JURISDICTION. BURNHAM SAID THAT RATHER THAN HAVING TRINIDAD DWHORT THE TWO SUSPECTS TO VENEZUELA WHICH WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO SETTING THEM FREE, HE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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THEM TURNED OVER TO THE CUBANS WHO WOULD METE OUT STERN JUSTICE.FU TOLD HIM I THOUGHT TY CUBANS WERE MORE INTERESTED IN A POLITICAL TRIAL FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES THAN IN JUSTICE.

7. BURHHAM TOUCHED AGAIN ON THE SUBJECT OF ASSASSINATION. HE APPEARED CONVINCED THAT THE CUBAN EXILES WERE OUT TO GET HIM. HE TOLD ME (CONFIRMING WHAT WILLS HAD SAID THREE WEEKS AGO) THAT HE HAD CANCELLED HIS OCTOBER VISIT TO CANADA TO RECEIVE AN HONORARY DEGREE BECAUSE OF REPORTS THAT AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WOULD BE MADE. HE ADDED, "AS THINGS ARE NOW, I WILL NOT SET FOOT ON THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT."

8. COMMENT: BURNHAM APPEARED TIRED WMD DEPRESSED. APART FROM THE FIRST TEN MINUTES OF THIS ONE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTE MEETING, BURNHAM APPEARED TO BE MUSING AND GROPING FOR ANSWERS AND A PLAN OF ACTION. HE MADE CLEAR HE WANTS VENGEANCE ON WHOEVER CAUSED THE DEATHS OF THE ELEVEN GUYANESE. HE REPEATED SOME THINGS SEVERAL TIMES. HE ASSURED ME THAT HE BELIEVED WHAT I TOLD HIM. DURING THE LATTER THREE-FOURTHS OF OUR CONVERSATION, I HAD THE IMPRESSION HE WAS USING ME AS A SOUNDING BOARD. SEVERAL TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT THE CONVERSATION HAD ENDED AND WAS READY TO LEAVE, HE WOULD START TALKING AGAIN. FINALLY AFTER ABOUT 45 MINUTES, I GOT UP TO

EXCUSE MYSELF. HE STOPPED ME AND INVITED ME  
TO HAVE A DRINK. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE SWITCHED  
FROM BROODING ABOUT THE PLANE CRASH TO THE  
SUBJECT OF HOW THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES  
NOW RANK IN THE POLLS. WHILE WE WERE TALKING,  
HE HAD SUMMONED THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR WHO  
HE KEPT WAITING FOR APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN  
MINUTES WHILE WE FINISHED OUR DRINK. EVEN  
WITH THE SUSPICIONS HZNVOICED, BURNHAM APPEARED  
FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT THE MEETING. I HAVE THE  
IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS UNDER AN  
EMOTIONAL STRAIN.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 13 OCT 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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